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THE LION KING

A NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES

68

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Grapevine



Hi there!

All the pieces in this week's Grapevine are about young animals. But how do you tell the age of an animal you've only just met? Elephant says you should see how worn its teeth are. Gorilla looks for silver hairs. Pumbaa says you should cut off the top of its head and count the rings. Is he thinking of trees? I hope so!

Write to:
Kim,
The Lion King
PO Box 1
Haweside, NSW 4188

Kim



FRANTIC FEEDERS

Finding enough food is a task that keeps all animals busy, and those with little ones to feed work harder than most. Some are so frantically busy that it's enough to make you dizzy. When great tits have chicks, they can be seen going back and forth all day long. They make up to 900 trips a day. Excuse me while I sit down and think about that for a while.



HOT NEWS

What decides whether we are male or female? Is it just chance or is it something to do with the food our mums were eating when we were starting to grow? There are lots of answers to this question. However, we do know what turns young Nile crocodiles into males or females - it's the temperature of the eggs in the nest. Below 31°C they become mostly females; above 34°C they are mostly males. Between those two temperatures, you get some of each. How about that?



Zeena Friedsch, age 10

W
A
T
C
H
OUT FOR
There are five dragonflies,
just like this one,
hidden in this magazine.
Can you find them all?



CATERPILLAR KIDNAPPED

The butterfly world is in shock today following the kidnapping of another caterpillar. The victim, the slug-like youth of an Australian blue butterfly, is being held by a group of green ants. They have promised that they will protect the caterpillar from parasitic wasps and other enemies. All he has to do in return is produce a sugary substance that the ants like to eat. It looks to me like a good deal for the caterpillar. If I were him, I'd keep my mouth shut and stay put!



Darren Reay, age 10



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FREE IN PART 69

A fabulous Lion King
bookmark to make
sure that you never
lose your place!

SIMBA'S



WORLD

SEVERAL DIFFERENT KINDS OF DOLPHINS SWIM IN THE SEAS OFF AFRICA, SUCH AS THE COMMON DOLPHIN WHICH FEEDS ALONG THE NORTH COAST IN SUMMER AND THE DUSKY WHICH LIVES ALL THE YEAR ROUND OFF THE SOUTH COAST.

Dolphins

Dolphins are mammals which belong to the same order as whales. Like whales, they have streamlined bodies, front flippers and a horizontal tail which consists of two blades called 'flukes'. They breathe through a blowhole at the top of their head.

Most dolphins have a snout that juts out beneath the forehead, one dorsal fin that curves backwards, and between 100 and 200 sharp, backward-pointing teeth.

They are social animals, travelling and feeding together in groups, or 'schools'. Ocean-going dolphins often form schools of 1000 or more, while dolphins that stay in shallower, coastal waters live in smaller groups.

<SMILER

With its lower jaw sticking out beyond the upper one, the bottlenose dolphin looks as if it is always smiling.

WOW!

The common dolphin is one of the most acrobatic dolphins in the world. One common dolphin in captivity cleared 6.6m in one leap. It is also one of the fastest small dolphins, reaching speeds of 44km per hour.



Illustration: Rex & Co. (top right) Photos: Rex & Co. (bottom left)



BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

The bottlenose has a shorter snout than the common, and is not quite as big. It has a smooth, dome-shaped head and can be various shades of grey on top, with a pale belly and dark flippers. It is a powerful swimmer and can stay under for up to 15 minutes. It often takes rides on the waves made by boats.

Like other dolphins, it keeps in touch with other members of its family by a series of whistles, clicks, chirps, squeaks and groans.

A BLUNT SNOOT

Risso's dolphins have a blunt snout, a tall dorsal fin and their greyish bodies are often criss-crossed with scars.

Y TAKING IN AIR

When common dolphins are swimming fast, they often leap clear of the water to breathe out stale air and take in a lungful of fresh air.

RISSO'S DOLPHIN

This dolphin has a much blunter snout than the common or bottlenose, and it has a crease down the centre of its forehead. It changes colour with age: the young dolphin is brown, the adult blue-grey or grey-brown and, as it grows old, its colour fades to pale grey.

Risso's dolphins spend much of the year in deep waters, away from land, but in the winter they move close to the African coast. They travel together in groups of one adult male, plus several females and their young.

COMMON DOLPHIN

The common dolphin, which can grow to 4m, is usually dark on top, with a white belly and a white band above the tail, a yellowish patch on the sides and a dark line from the black flippers to underneath its black snout. It moves about in large schools, following shoals of fish in warm offshore waters.

The common often leaps straight up out of the water and then crashes back down as if it is taking part in a high-jump competition.



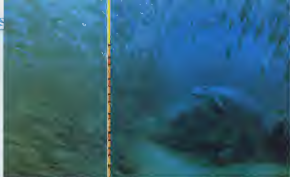
HUNTING TACTICS

Dolphins can find their prey by sight – when they leap right out of the water they are keeping an eye out for the tell-tale sight of flocks of birds feeding in one spot. But they often locate their food using echolocation. By sending out a stream of high-pitched clicks, they can discover where there are fish, or other prey, moving about. The sound waves they send out bounce off objects in their path. The dolphins can de-code the returning echoes and so discover where the objects are and even what size they are.

Some kinds of dolphins, like the common, bottlenose and dusky, have very effective hunting tactics. They swim side by side, which means that they are covering a wide area of water. Once they locate a shoal of fish, some of the party swim right round the shoal, herding them into a tight circle. The frightened fish stick close together and the dolphins swim forwards and snap them up.

► GONE FISHING

This bottlenose dolphin is rounding up a shoal of fish.



LEAPS AND SPINS

Dolphins leap out of the water for many reasons apart from needing air. Sometimes they leap and splash down in order to frighten fish. They also throw themselves sideways out of the water and then slam down, slapping the water with their tail – this could be a noisy signal to other members of the school; and some of their most acrobatic leaps seem to be performed just for fun.



POWER JUMPS

These bottlenose dolphins are leaping playfully out of the water. One flings itself straight up, like a torpedo, while the other makes a huge arc before crashing back into the water.

SIMBA SAYS

It sure is good to belong to a group, like dolphins do, when there's a shark about. Adults will ram an attacking shark with their snouts. They also help each other out when one of them is injured or ill by pushing the struggling dolphin up to the surface, so that it can breathe.

Groups of dusky dolphins make spectacular somersaults and turns in the air, usually after they have had a good meal. Playing together in this way helps to keep a group in close touch with each other.

A TWIRLS AND TWISTS

Groups of dusky dolphins make spectacular somersaults and turns in the air, usually after they have had a good meal. Playing together in this way helps to keep a group in close touch with each other.



**HAKUNA
MATATA**
NO WORRIES!

As the blazing sun beat down, turning the bushes and grassland a onspy golden yellow, Simba and Pumbaa splashed

around in a cool, shallow river "Take that – and that, you fly-livered lion!" chuckled Pumbaa, lucking backwards

"Right, now you're in big " began Simba, but then a mouthful of muddy water stopped him from saying another word

While his two friends played silly games, covering each other with as much mud as they

could dig up, Timon had more exciting things to do

He had found some buried treasures – bright, shiny stones of all different shapes and sizes!

"Just wait until Simba and Pumbaa see this baby!" grinned Timon, holding up the shiniest, most beautiful stone he'd ever seen. Sparkling in the light, the stone turned from red to green to yellow, as Timon twirled it in the air

"You have good taste,

I'll give you that!"

squawked a parrot,

swooping down and

grabbing the stone in its

☆claws "But you'll not

find any stone more

colourful than my feathers!"

"Hey! Give me back that stone!"

yelled Timon, shaking a fist as the parrot flew up into a tree. "I'll. I'll get you, just you wait and see!"

"My thoughts exactly!" growled a voice from behind a boulder

"Who s-said t-that?" stuttered Timon, shielding his eyes from the glaring sun to look about him

As if from nowhere, a wild dog leapt over the boulder and landed in front of Timon, slumping and drooling and licking its lips

"What I want, I always get!" snarled the dog "And I want you for my tea!"

"Well, there's just one problem with that " squawked the parrot "I don't think the meerkat wants

anything to do with you, creep!"

As the wild dog looked up, the parrot dropped the big, shiny stone on its head! **CLUNK!**

The wild dog, yelping and howling, ran away

"Looks as if you just saved my life!" smiled Timon at the parrot, whose name was Pilfer. They told each other stories about savannah life and soon felt like old friends

Timon even showed Pilfer the other shiny stones he had collected

"I know a place where there are thousands of huge, shiny stones which would make those little things look like grains of sand!" said Pilfer, giving Timon a knowing wink "If you like, I'll tell you where to look for them!"

Timon wanted to impress Simba and Pumbaa, who thought he was wasting his time collecting silly stones instead of playing with his friends!

"Point the way, Pilfer!" said Timon, rolling up his stones inside a large leaf

Balancing the rolled leaf over one shoulder, Timon set off on the route Pilfer had described, leaving the parrot behind. When he'd walked for what felt like hours, inky black clouds suddenly appeared. Thunder crashed and lightning crackled, turning the sky red and gold

Timon shivered as sharp needles

of rain stung his skin and eyes. The ground was soon flooded with thick, swirling muddy water

"I'm cold, wet, hungry – and so ured!" thought Timon, dragging his paws. Looking up, he spotted a cave in the distance and yawned.

"I'll find some tasty grubs to eat and sleep inside that cave tonight. I can look for shiny stones tomorrow"

Inside, the cave was very cold and dark – and somehow menacing





Timon could smell danger in the air, but he was too exhausted to look for another place to shelter.

Timon lifted a stone. Beneath it was one small, pathetic-looking grub. "Well, it's not a feast, but it'll do for now!" sighed Timon, swallowing the grub and rubbing his tummy.

"My feelings entirely!" hessed a voice. Timon recognized straight away as the wild dog who had tried to attack him earlier!

"So, there I was, searching for you – and you've come straight to my home and found me instead! What a very thoughtful fellow you are!" grinned the wild dog, baring its long, sharp teeth.

Finding courage he didn't know he had, Timon took a swipe at the dog, hitting him over the head with his makeshift 'sack' of stones.

"I guess one lump on the head wasn't enough for you, eh?" called Timon, running from the cave as fast as he could.

Dazed, the wild dog slowly slid down on to the cold, stony floor.

"I give up! I'll just have to learn to like eating leaves, even if it's the last thing I do!" he groaned, rubbing his sore head with his paws. "These days, hunting meerkats is getting to be far too dangerous!"

When he was quite sure that he wasn't being followed, Timon stopped running and looked around. He had lost all sense of direction!

"I don't know even know where I've been, let alone where I'm going," sighed Timon. "Do I go left, right, turn back, or carry on ahead?"

Poor Timon just didn't know what to do. Sitting on a boulder, he closed his eyes and thought of 'home'.

"Right now, playing silly games with Simba and Pumbaa, doesn't seem such a bad idea!" he sighed. "Oh, if I had just one wish, I'd wish to be back with them, splashing about in that muddy river water."

"Seems like a pretty silly wish to me!" said a voice. "If I had a wish, I'd wish for something really tasty to eat! Have you any useful suggestions, meerkat?"

Timon couldn't open his eyes, he was so frozen with fear. Holding his breath, he listened. He could feel the creature's hot, sticky breath as it paced all around him in a circle.

Gasping hard, Timon stammered, "P-please d-don't eat m-me! I d-don't t-taste very nice! I'm full of hard, splintery bones that could run your teeth – and give you indigestion."

The voice let out a huge, belly-rumbling laugh and stopped moving.

"I guess this is the end for me," thought Timon, hopelessly. "I'm going to be eaten by some horrible, wild creature in the middle of nowhere! I'll never see my friends, Simba and Pumbaa, ever again!"

As the creature's steps came closer and closer, Timon tried to behave like a really brave meerkat.

NEXT WEEK: Will Timon escape from the mystery creature?



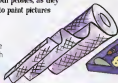
ZAZU'S

MAKE & DO

Painted Pebbles

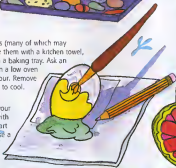
Try to find some smooth pebbles, as they have a better surface to paint pictures and patterns on!

- 1 Put the stones in a bowl containing warm water and a little washing-up liquid. Use a nailbrush to scrub the stones clean.



- 2 To dry the stones (many of which may absorb water), wipe them with a kitchen towel, then place them on a baking tray. Ask an adult to put them in a low oven for about half an hour. Remove carefully, and allow to cool.

- 3 If you wish, draw your design on the stone with a pencil before you start painting. You could use a blob of Blu-Tack or Plasticine to hold the stone steady on a sheet of newspaper.



YOU WILL NEED

variety of smooth stones
washing-up liquid
Blu-Tack/Plasticine
old newspapers
thick and fine paintbrushes
poster/acrylic paints
felt-tip pens for details
polyurethane varnish and
brush
nail brush

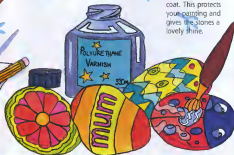
Pebble Power

Collecting unusual stones is something you can do almost anywhere - in the garden, the local park, when you're out on a walk or near a river or beach. Here are some ideas for things to do with them.



- 4 Do the background colour first. When dry, turn over the stone to paint the underneath patch. Add details with a fine brush or with felt-tip pens. See below for some bright ideas - or you could have loads of fun just painting on jazzy, abstract patterns in bright colours.

- 5 When the paint is dry, use a clean brush to paint on a coat of polyurethane varnish. Allow to dry, then add another coat. This protects your painting and gives the stones a lovely shine.



Keeping Stones Shiny

If you've collected stones for their colours when they are wet, you might be disappointed when they dry and go dull. One way to display them and keep them looking good is to wash them well, then put them in a storage jar filled with water. That way you can add to your collecting whenever you wish. Do remember to change the water when it gets cloudy!



Animal Magic

Collect stones with interesting shapes, or a variety of different sizes. Use Ecostick contact glue to stick a number of small stones together to form an animal shape. Glue on cut-out paper or fabric ears. Use knitting yarn for whiskers or a mane. When the glue is quite dry, paint and varnish the stones. See the pictures for some ideas for a leopard, a penguin, a turtle and a zebra.



Other Ideas

Here are some ideas for painting a variety of stones.

● Paint a stone with a hole in it, then thread it on a ribbon or a leather thong to make a pendant.

● Glue some coloured gravel (sold for use in fish-tanks) to a bottle or jar with an interesting shape.

● Make family fridge magnets by gluing tiny magnets to the back of small pebbles painted with your family's names. Check which side of each magnet sticks to the fridge, then glue the other side to the pebble!

● Paint and varnish five evenly-sized stones, then play five-stones with them. You could use them as counters for a board game, too.

● For a useful gift, paint a large stone brightly. Add your friend's name and the word 'paperweight' or 'doorstop'.



MID-AIR SNATCHES

Airborne dragonflies have powerful jaws which they use to grind up their insect prey. But first they must catch this fast-moving food.

A female dragonfly is scanning a river bank in Kenya for small flying insects. She spins one below her and plummets down with her spiny legs tilted forwards, ready to make a grab.

Keeping the spines helping her to keep a firm grip, she carries it to a nearby twig. There she anchors herself with her back legs and holding the prey tightly in her front leg, she now starts to chew it into tiny pieces.

The dragonfly's legs tilt forwards so that it can easily grab hold of prey in the air. This female dragonfly has caught an insect, landed on a twig and is eating it, bit by bit, using her strong jaws.





THE WEST INDIES

THE ISLANDS IN THIS CHAIN VARY GREATLY IN SIZE. THE LARGEST ISLAND HAS AN AREA OF 114,524sq km, with room for mountains, forests and swamps. THE SMALLEST IS JUST BIG ENOUGH FOR A PALM TREE OR TWO AND A VISITING PARROT.



A LAST LIZARDS
The endangered rock iguana is found on only two small islands. About 400 remain.

The West Indies is a large archipelago, or group of islands. It curves, like a shrimp's tail, for 3000km from the Florida peninsula in south-east North America to north-east South America. To the west it encloses the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean sea; to the east lies the Atlantic.

Among the islands are names you'll recognize, such as Cuba, Jamaica and Barbados.

Most of the islands were made by volcanoes and are therefore mountainous. Many have C-shaped harbours that are in fact the craters of old volcanoes. Some are flat, especially the Bahamas, because they were formed from reefs.

These islands are tropical, they are warm and the temperature does

► ISLAND SPINE
Tobago's Main Ridge is a thickly forested mountain spine, 580m high.

Solenodons sometimes use their long snouts to hold down their prey before eating it.



► BIRD TIMER
Blue-crowned motmots sit very upright on their perches and swing their tails like pendulums.

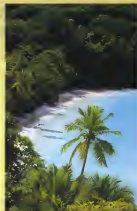


not vary much from one month to another. The rainy season is in the summer, and in the autumn, from August and October, hurricanes often sweep in

Some of these islands, the flat coral cays, are circled by coral reefs and edged with sandy beaches and mangrove thickets. The volcanic ones drop straight into the sea and their coastal waters become deep very suddenly.



◀ SIMPLY RED
Hibiscus are evergreen shrubs found growing in the wild in the West Indies and Central America.



► RISING LAND
From its white beaches, the island of St John rises steeply and is thickly forested.



In places that have remained untouched by farming, there are still dense tropical forests where parrots, hummingbirds, tanagers and honeycreepers abound. There are not as many mammals to be found here as on the continents, but one of them, the Hogenola solenodon, makes up for this by being so unusual. It has a long flexible snout which it uses to search rock crevices and other tight places for insect food.

At 15cm in length, the Hercules beetle is one of the largest insects in the world.



Hutias are found only in the West Indies. This one is nocturnal and feeds on leaves, bark and twigs.





"I wonder how the squirrelfish got its name?"

"I expect it's because it likes to climb trees and eat nuts!"



The shallow, warm, sunlit waters surrounding the West Indies are ideal for corals. They grow together in reefs of dazzling variety and colour. Living corals and other animals form a layer on the outside of a base structure made from the hard skeletons of dead stony corals. Stony corals include elkhorn, finger and pillar coral. Among them are soft corals, such as sea fans and sea whips. There are also many kinds of sponges, including the geyser-like bush and vase sponges which can grow to heights of 1.8m. These reefs are home to exotic fish with wonderful names, such as glassfish, squirrelfish, high-liners and French grunts.



SHAPING UP
In still waters, sponges are able to grow into delicate shapes, like these yellow tubes.



Sponges, such as this vase sponge, are actually animals. They feed on plankton.

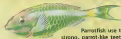


GRUNT SCHOOL
Grunts are named after the noise they make... by grinding their teeth.

REACHING OUT
Corals feed by pushing their tentacles out into the water. They catch plankton as it drifts by.



Surgeonfish have spines on either side of their tails. The fish uses them to defend itself.



Parrotfish use their strong, parrot-like teeth to scrape algae from rock and coral. This damages the coral.

THE LION KING COLOUR IT IN

A Long-lost Friend

While stalking a bug, Pumbaa encountered a lioness in the brush. The warthog squealed and fled. He tried to squeeze under a branch but he got stuck! Just as the lioness was about to pounce on him, Simba bounded in. The lioness flipped Simba on to his back. As he looked into her eyes, Simba thought he recognized her. "Nala? What are you doing here?" he asked in amazement.



PUZZLES

HAPPY DAYS

It is a lovely day on the savannah and the pride are relaxing, apart from Scar, who is sulking on a ledge above. Unfortunately, the author has written the wrong words in the speech bubbles. Can you work out who he really says? Match up the animals with the speech bubbles (1-7).

1 I'd rather be trampled over by a herd of elephants.

2 Out! Stop biting my tail you little rascal!

3 If you don't stop wriggling, you'll look like a hyena with a headache!

5 Ahhh! I feel sheep. I'm going to lie down in the sun.

6 OK, OK, I'm clean, can I go and play?

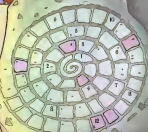
7 Are you going to join the pride?

4 Gee, Dad, can we go to the Elephants' Graveyard?

ANIMAL GROUPS

As well as getting the words in the speech bubbles wrong, the author has also got these groups of animals mixed up. Can you re-write the sentences, matching the animals to the groups they live in?

A herd of fish.
A shoal of sheep.
A clutch of hares.
A pack of bears.
A flock of geese.
A school of bulldozers.
A gaggle of waves.



WORD SPIRAL

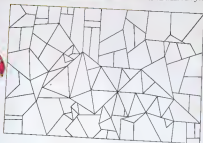
Start at the centre and fill in the answers to the clues. The last letter of each word forms the first letter of the next word. When you have finished, re-arrange the shaded letters to spell out the name of someone who often gets his words muddled.

- 1 What type of animal is Rafiki? (6).
- 2 Who built an ark that housed two of every creature? (4).
- 3 A scurrying, dog-like creature. (5).
- 4 This reptile looks just like a crocodile. (8).
- 5 A natural mass of stone. (4).
- 6 The name for a baby goat. (5).
- 7 A vast area of waste land which is often sandy. (6).
- 8 Octopuses have eight of these. (8).
- 9 What is a serpent? (5).
- 10 An imaginary line that passes round the middle of the globe. (7).
- 11 According to Peking, 'Home is where your - - - - - is!' (4).
- 12 A large bird with beautiful, fan-shaped plumage. (7).

MORE PUZZLES

TRICKY TRIANGLES

Shade in all the shapes that have three sides. What have you drawn?



ALL CHANGE

The answer to each line becomes part of the clue to the next one. What are the eight words?

- 1 The first word is the name of Madonna's brother.
- 2 Change the second letter for something that twinkles in the sky.
- 3 Add a letter to the end to get a word that means 'to look'.
- 4 Change the fourth letter to describe old bread.
- 5 Drop the first two letters and you have something to drink.
- 6 Add a letter to the beginning for a story.
- 7 Change the first letter and you have a masculine word.
- 8 Change the second letter and you're left with a burrowing animal.

STRANGE CREATURES

Now the artist has got confused! Round the page are six animals but they all look rather strange! Can you match up the heads, bodies and feet to make six complete animals?



ANANSI REMEMBERS ANANSI AND SQUIRREL

"ANANSI PLAYS TRICKS ON OTHER CREATURES AND THINKS HE WILL GET AWAY WITH IT. BUT HE DOESN'T ALWAYS ..."

Squirrel was an excellent farmer. He had chosen a plot of land off the beaten track where no one was likely to find it (or so he thought). The soil was very rich and he grew a fine crop of maize. Squirrel reached his land through the tree tops so there was no need for him to make a path.

One day, Anansi went hunting for food a little further from his home than usual. He came across Squirrel's field of maize with the sweetest smelling cobs he had ever seen. Although he looked and looked, he could not find a path. "That's strange," he thought to himself. "How does the farmer reach his field without a path?"

This puzzled him greatly and he wondered about it as he made his way home and then all evening. By the next morning, he had a cunning plan.

"Come on, hurry up!" he said to his family. "We must be quick. I have a good plan to make sure we will have plenty of juicy maize cobs for a very long time."

Anansi and his family went to the field. They made a path to join up to the track they had come along. Once it was finished, they picked a few maize cobs, took them home, roasted them on the fire and had a delicious lunch.

Every morning they came and picked a few more cobs. It did not take long before Squirrel realized that his wonderful maize crop was disappearing. So he lay in wait. When Anansi arrived and started picking the cobs, Squirrel came down from a tree. "What makes you think you can take my maize?" he asked angrily.

"What makes you think it's yours?" replied Anansi.

"This is my field. I planted the maize. I tended it and now the cobs are ready to pick, you are picking them."

